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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/773,409  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT  
NON-FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:  
a tube arranged in a longitudinal direction;  
a female connector having a hollow form opened at its front and rear ends and being provided on a rear portion of the tube in a state of communicating with the rear portion,  
wherein an opening taper portion tapered forwardly is formed in a longitudinal intermediate portion of an internal circumferential surface of the female connector; and  
an elastically deformable hemostasis valve is provided longitudinally slidably in the opening taper portion of the female connector and an inside portion extending rearwardly from the opening taper portion,  
the hemostasis valve being made of a single member and including:  
a body having a hollow form opened at its front and rear ends, the body being elastically deformed in a radially inward direction by sliding forwardly in the opening taper portion, and also being urged rearwardly by resilient force due to said elastic deformation; and  
an openable/closable portion having a forwardly projecting tapered shape molded integrally with the front end of the body to

close the front end opening of the body, the openable/closable portion having a front end portion to be opened in the radially outward direction by elastic deformation of the body in the radially inward direction.

2. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1, wherein a connecting taper portion which is provided to extend successively rearwardly from the opening taper portion and to which a male connector is releasably connected is formed on an inner circumferential surface of the female connector, a taper ratio of the opening taper portion being made larger than a taper ratio of the connecting taper portion.

3. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 2, wherein the male connector is separably connected to a rear portion of the female connector.

4. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1, wherein the female connector with its front portion projects forwardly from the tube.

5. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 2, wherein the hemostasis valve is pressable forwardly by the male connector.

6. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 2, wherein the body is elastically deformed in a radially inward direction by sliding forwardly in the opening taper portion during application of pressure by the male connector.

7. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1, wherein an inner needle is removably inserted through the tube.

8. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 7, wherein the openable/closable portion has a front end portion to be opened by being elastically deformed in a radially outward direction during application of pressure by the inner needle.

9. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1, wherein the hemostasis valve has a duckbill-like shape.

10. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1, wherein the hemostasis valve is made of a rubber elastic material.

11. (withdrawn) An indwelling catheter comprising:  
a tube arranged in a longitudinal direction; and  
a female connector having a hollow form opened at its front and rear ends and being provided on a rear portion of the tube in a state of communicating with the rear portion;  
wherein a tubular connecting portion is molded integrally with the tube or the female connector, the tubular connecting portion being arranged in a longitudinal direction, communicating with the tube, being located in the female connector, and being opened at its rear end; and  
an elastically deformable hemostasis valve is disposed in the female connector,  
the hemostasis valve including:  
a tubular portion fitted over the connecting portion from a rearward direction and reducible in size by forward elastic deformation; and  
an openable/closable portion molded integrally with a rear end of the tubular portion to close a rear end opening of the connecting portion, and provided with a slit formed to extend in a radial direction, the slit being opened by being elastically deformed in a radially outward direction owing to the reduction in size of the tubular portion.

12. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 11, wherein a connecting taper portion which is provided to extend successively rearwardly from the opening taper portion and to which a male connector is releasably connected is formed on an inner circumferential surface of the female connector.

13. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 12, wherein the hemostasis valve is pressable forwardly by the male connector.

14. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 12, wherein the male connector is separably connected to a rear portion of the female connector.

15. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 12, wherein the tubular portion is elastically deformed forwardly and reduced in size during application of pressure by the male connector.

16. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 11, wherein an inner needle is removably inserted through the tube.

17. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 16, wherein the inner needle is removably inserted through the tube and the female connector with its front portion projecting forwardly from the tube.

18. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 16, wherein the inner needle is inserted through the slit.

19. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 11, wherein the hemostasis valve is made of a rubber elastic material.

20. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 1 further comprises a member having a male connector.

21. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 11 further comprises a member.

22. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 20 wherein the member comprises an inner needle, a needle hub and a male connector.

23. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 21 wherein the member comprises an inner needle, a needle hub and a male connector.

24. (original) The indwelling catheter according to claim 20 wherein the member having the male connector is a syringe.

25. (withdrawn) The indwelling catheter according to claim 21 wherein the member having the male connector is a syringe.

26. (new) An indwelling catheter comprising:  
a tube arranged in a longitudinal direction;  
a female connector having a hollow form opened at its front and rear ends and being provided on a rear portion of the tube in a state of communicating with the rear portion,

wherein an opening taper portion tapered forwardly is formed in a longitudinal intermediate portion of an internal circumferential surface of the female connector; and

an elastically deformable hemostasis valve is provided longitudinally slidably in the opening taper portion of the female connector and an inside portion extending rearwardly from the opening taper portion,

the hemostasis valve being made of a single member and including:

a body having a hollow form opened at its front and rear ends, the body being elastically deformed in a radially inward direction by sliding forwardly in the opening taper portion, and also being urged rearwardly by resilient force due to said elastic deformation; and

an openable/closable portion having a forwardly projecting tapered shape molded integrally with the front end of the body to close the front end opening of the body, the openable/closable portion having a front end portion to be opened in the radially outward direction by elastic deformation of the body in the radially inward direction and not by pressing open the openable/closable portion.